

Bibliography of Central Texas Archaeology and History

The following listings include popular publications and website addresses for further information on the history of human occupation in Central Texas:

Prehistoric Readings:

Hunter-Gatherer Mortuary Practices during the Central Texas Archaic (1995).

Leland C. Bement. Austin: University of Texas Press.

This detailed archaeological report describes the human skeletal remains, burial furnishings, and fauna recovered from Bering Sinkhole in Kerr County, the first carefully excavated hunter-gatherer burial site in central Texas.

The Indians of Texas: From Prehistoric to Modern Times (1969).

William W. Newcomb, Jr. Austin: University of Texas Press.

This is the most widely used book on the subject. A must for any study or student of Texas Indians. It is readable for the general public seeking basic information, but also is used by professional anthropologists and archaeologists. It was written in the late 50s so it does have some outdated material and suffers from some unintentional racism due to the timeframe in which it was written when western science often unfairly viewed indigenous societies as “savage” and “barbaric.”

A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians (1985).

Ellen Sue Turner and Thomas R. Hester (illustrations by Kathy Roemer), Austin: Texas Monthly Press.

This well illustrated volume is an updated reference manual for the identification of Texas artifact types. Also included are sections addressing the principles of projectile point typology, the manufacture and use of stone tools, and problems of context and chronology in Texas archaeology.

Historical Readings

Oral History for Texans (1985).

Thomas L. Charlton. Austin: Texas Historical Commission.

This book encourages Texans to become involved in recording their cultural heritage through oral histories. The book serves as a technical guide for those (laymen and professionals) who wish to practice oral history.

Traces of Texas History; Archaeological Evidence of the Past 450 Years (1983).

Daniel E. Fox. San Antonio: Corona Publishing Company.

This book traces historic site archaeology in Texas from its beginnings to the present. Fox reviews nearly every major report of historic archaeology in Texas in a general historical framework which provides a readable historical perspective. The book is written for the general reader as well as the professional archaeologist.

Websites: Please note, most of these sites have links to other regional websites, as well as national/international links for those interested in archaeology outside Texas.

www.thc.state.tx.us The Texas Historic Commission's webpage. The THC is the State Agency for Historic Preservation. They administer a wide variety of programs for the public and their webpage is a great starting point to learn more about the prehistoric and historic heritage of Texas. They also provide grants and assistance to communities for Historic Preservation.

www.texasarch.org The Texas Archaeology Society's (TAS) webpage. A great organization composed of professional and amateur or avocational archaeologists. They conduct great summer programs, including field excavations such as at the Gault site, as well as producing newsletters and a professional bulletin. Highly recommend visiting the site if serious about becoming involved with Texas archaeology.

www.tpwd.state.tx.us Texas Parks and Wildlife webpage. Check it out for information on the historic and prehistoric properties that can be discovered at State Parks.

www.texasindians.com A webpage providing a wide variety of information for adults and kids on the Native American inhabitants of Texas. Highly recommend this page for its great summaries of Native American migration and interaction, as well as its links for books on the tribes. Educational activities for teachers to use are also provided.